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INFORMATION DESK

What's the Difference?

Published in Synonymy - Published as a Synonym

BY

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IT IS UNLIKELY that Jean Cate is the only person who has been nonplussed by the distinction between publication of a name as a synonym and publication in synonymy. Whether or not a scientific name is a synonym may depend upon the taxonomist, for the lumpers may group many forms together that would be separated by the splitter, and a splitter erecting a new taxon might base it on differences too minute to be conceded by his colleagues, and hence he would seem to be publishing a name that from the start is a synonym, though later it might prove useful. On the other hand, the introduction within a formal synonymy of a name that had not previously been validated is something else. It usually happens by the mention of manuscript names. For example:

Captain Thomas Brown in his "Illustrations of the Recent Conchology of Great Britain . . ." 1844 (2nd edition), page 100, discussed *Tellina depressa* of GMELIN, 1791. His rather sketchy synonymy is as follows (I omit some irrelevant references):

"*Tellina depressa*, pl. 40, f. 12.

Tellina squalida, Montagu, p. 56.

Bosemptra squalida, Leach MSS, p. 7."

Actually, the *Tellina squalida* dates not from MONTAGU but from PULTENEY, 1799. Some authors consider both it and *T. depressa* GMELIN, 1791, to be synonyms of *T. incarnata* LINNAEUS, 1758. LEACH's manuscript had been rather freely circulated, but no one else had picked up the generic name *Bosemptra*. Thus, Brown could have been considered to have published it, as LAMARCK did *Thyasira*, another LEACH name.

In the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, first edition (1961), Article 11 requires that a name first

published in a synonymy, as *Bosemptra* was, must be rejected. However, as this requirement was soon found to jeopardize such names as *Thyasira*, which had gained currency, a modification was made in the second edition of the Code (1963). Such names are to be rejected after 1961, but those that have been accepted by authors are to be accepted with the original date and authorship of their appearance in print. The name *Thyasira* thus continues to be cited as of LAMARCK, 1818, but *Bosemptra*, not having been utilized by anyone prior to 1961, is to be ignored or rejected. This is fortunate, for it might otherwise displace *Laciolina* IREDALE, 1937, a name now being used for several Pacific and Atlantic species of tellens. The same principle holds for the proposal of specific names in synonymy. P. P. CARPENTER, for example, cited several names that he had intended to propose and that he had in manuscript in his provisional catalogue, but when he published his Mazatlan Catalogue, he relegated them to the synonymy of species described in 1852 by C. B. ADAMS; these might have been revived by authors prior to 1961, but few were.

METHODS & TECHNIQUES

The Corrosion-Vinyl Acetate Technique as an Aid in the Reconstruction of the Marine Molluscan Alimentary System

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IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT to get an accurate perspective of the molluscan alimentary system using solely dissection and serial sections as tools for reconstruction. This is especially true for the branching of the digestive diverticula and the orientation of the digestive tract.

Casts have been employed by many workers as a supporting technique for the study of anatomical details of the molluscan alimentary system and its organs. Stomach casts of *Anodonta cellensis* were prepared using plaster by GUTHEIL (1912, p. 447). YONGE (1926, p. 299) employed a concentrated solution of gelatin as a material